DEIXIS IN EDGAR ALLEN POE'S THE TALE -TELL HEART: A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS STUDY

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Abstract:

The proposed research attempts to explore the notion of 'Deixis' in pragmatics as well as it analyses deictic elements utilized in the utterances from the selected literary text *Tale- Tell Heart* by Edger Allen Poe. It also examines how the deictic elements govern the contextual meaning in the utterances from the pragmatic orientation. Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics that explores the meaning of the utterances governed by the speech situation. The study of the contextual meaning of the utterances in pragmatics is done through the analysis of deictic elements used in the utterances. The deictic elements utilized in the utterances by the conversational participants play a significant role in pragmatics to interpret the meaning of the utterances. Thus, the notion 'Deixis' is one of the core aspects of pragmatics as deictic elements help in understanding the situational meaning of the utterances encoded by the conversational participants in the linguistic exchange.

The main objective of the study is to study the concept of 'Deixis', to make an investigatory analysis of deictic elements used in the literary text *The Tale -Tell Heart* by Edgar Allen Poe and explore the meaning governed by these deictic expressions. The hypothesis of the present research is that 'The deictic elements used by Edger Allen Poe in *The Tale- Tell Heart* facilitates the contextual meaning of the literary text'.

Keywords: Deixis, Utterances, Contextual Meaning, Social and Discourse .

**"الإشارية" في قصة القلب الواشي للكاتب أدجار ألن بو
دراسة تحليلية تداولية**

ملخص البحث:

يسعى هذا البحث الى استكشاف مفهوم "الإشارية" في مجال التداولية، فضلا عن تحليل العناصر الإشارية المستعملة في الأقوال المأخوذة من النصوص الأدبية المختارة في قصة "القلب الواشي" للكاتب أدجار ألن بو. كما يفحص كيف تتحكم العناصر الإشارية في المعنى السياقي لاحاديث شخصيات القصة من ناحية التوجه التداولي . التداولية هي حقل فرعي من علم اللغة يستكشف معنى الكلام الذي يحكمه سياقه. تتم دراسة المعنى السياقي للألفاظ في التداولية من خلال تحليل العناصر الإشارية المستعملة في الكلام اذ تؤدي العناصر الاشارية المستعملةفي الكلام من المشاركين في المحادثة دورًا مهمًا في الجانب التداولي لتفسير معنى الكلام. وبالتالي ، فإن فكرة الإشاريةهي أحد الجوانب الأساسية للتداولية حيث تساعد العناصر الإشارية في فهم المعنى الظرفي للألفاظ التي يشفرها المشاركون في المحادثة في التبادل اللغوي.

أما الهدف الرئيسي من البحث الحالي فهو دراسة مفهوم الإشارية ، لإجراء تحليل استقصائي للعناصر الإشاريةالمستعملة في النص الأدبي لقصة "القلب الواشي" للكاتب أدجار ألن بو واستكشاف المعنى الذي تحكمه هذه التعبيرات الإشارية. فرضية البحث الحالي هي أن "العناصر الإشارية التي استعملها أدجار ألن بو في قصة"القلب الواشي" تسهل المعنى السياقي للنص الأدبي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الإشارية، الألفاظ ، المعنى السياقي ، ، الاجتماعي والخطاب.

1. Introduction

The words, phrases, and elements of speech are arbitrary until these are put together in grammatical order and utilized in speech situations as the language is a rule-governed phenomenon. Such a rule-governed phenomenon is developed by human beings to fulfill their communicative need of sharing information, emotions, ideas, feelings, etc. Every language user has to be careful of the selection of elements of speech according to context while having linguistic interaction because every element of speech has diverse meanings based on society, culture, and context. The study of language from a scientific perspective is termed linguistics. Moreover, Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics that explores the meaning of the utterances governed by the speech situation. The speech situation alters the meaning of the utterances as the utterances do not have meaning without the speech situation. The study of the contextual meaning of the utterances in pragmatics is done through the analysis of deictic elements used in the utterances. The deictic elements utilized in the utterances which are taken from the speeches of the characters as conversational participants of the Tale-tell Heart facilitate interpreting the meaning of the pragmatics of the utterances. The context of the utterance is the subject matter as the utterance may have diverse meanings based on the situation. Thus, the notion 'Deixis' is one of the core aspects of pragmatics that needs to be studied as the deictic elements help in understanding the situational meaning of the utterances encoded by the conversational participants in the linguistic exchange.

The proposed study attempts to explore the notion of 'Deixis' in pragmatics as well as it analyses the deictic elements utilized in the utterances from the selected literary text *The Tale -Tell Heart*. The researcher analyses the selected literary interaction from the short story with context from a pragmatic perspective.

2. An Overview of *The Tale -Tell Heart* by Edger Allan Poe:

Edger Allan Poe was born on 19th January 1809. He is an American poet, editor, and literary critic. He is well remembered for poetry and short stories. He is the earliest short story practitioner as well as the pioneer of science fiction and detective fiction in America. His first collection of poems entitled *Tamerlane and Other Poems* was published in 1827. The second collection *Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane and Minor Poems* published in 1829. In 1935, he became the editor of the magazines entitled *Southern Literary Messenger, Gentleman's Magazine* and *Graham's Magazine* in Philadelphia, and *Broadway's Journal* in New York. During this period, he enhanced his poetry and short story writing skills. His notable short stories include *The fall of the House of Usher, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Murders in the Rue Morgue,* and *The Raven.* He died of acute congestion of the brain on 07th October 1849 when he was 40 years old.

The Tale -Tell Heart is one of the short stories written by well-known and prestigious awards won by American writer Edger Allan Poe. *The Tale -Tell Heart* was first published in the periodical named *The Pioneer* of James Russell Lowell in 1834. In *The Tale -Tell Heart* the narrator tells a story of his own. He narrates the horrific incident beautifully in which how he has murdered the old man because he does not

like his eyes that look like a vulture. The narrator behaves worse than a beast while killing the old man and hiding the dead body of the old man. The neighbours and policemen come and find nothing suspicious. But the neighbours and the policemen do not believe in him. And the narrator admits that he has murdered the old man.

3. Deixis

The origin of 'Deixis' goes back to the Greek word 'Deiknynai' which means 'to point' or 'to show'. In linguistics, 'deixis' can be defined as words and phrases that represent and define the contextual meaning in the linguistic exchange. In the view of Stephen Levinson, Deixis is a significant aspect of linguistics as it represents meaning in sentences and utterances through deictic expression. Deixis plays an essential role in Pragmatics and Semantics which are the branches of linguistics that study meaning.

According to Moore (2014:14), "Deixis is an important field of language study in its own right and very important for learners of languages. But it has some relevance to the analysis of conversation and pragmatics. It is often and best described as "verbal pointing", that is to say, pointing by means of language. The linguistic forms of this pointing are called deictic expressions, deictic markers, or deictic words, and they are also sometimes called indexical."

Lyons (1977:377) defines deixis as " the location and identification of persons, objects, events, processes, and activities talked about, or referred to, in relation to the Spatio-temporal context created and sustained by the act of utterance and the participation in it, typically, of a single speaker and a least one addressee" .

The contextual meaning is the subject matter of pragmatics whereas literary meaning is studied in semantics. Thus, the notion of 'deixis' is one of the core aspects of linguistics that needs to be studied. The study tries to define all the types of deixis with their application to the selected 25 linguistic exchanges from the selected short story *The Tale -Tell Heart* by Edger Allen Poe with context from a pragmatic viewpoint.

3.1 Person Deixis

The expressions that refer to a person with the usage of pronouns are defined as person deixis. The first (I and we) and second person (you) pronouns are used to represent one another involved in the conversation whereas the third person pronouns are used to represent the absent participant in the conversation. Some pronouns are gender-specific (he/she, his/her, and it/its) as well as are singular and plural (I -We, You-You, He/She/It- They, etc.). All these pronouns are the deictic expressions that denote persons in linguistic exchange. Thus, these pronouns are called Person Deixis. The Person Deixis helps to know the gender of the participant as well as the present participants and absent participants involved in the conversation. Such information enables us to examine the contextual meaning of the linguistic exchange, as in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Examples of Person Deixis

In example number 1, the underlined deictic expressions and 'you' from the utterance are the person deixis. The person deixis 'I' represents the narrator himself while 'you' indicates the silent listener or the reader to whom the Narrator is narrating his state of mind.

In example number 2, the underlined deictic expressions 'my', 'I', 'him', 'me', and 'his' are person deixis. The person deixis 'my', 'I', and 'me' represent the Narrator himself while 'him', 'his' and 'he' denote the old man.

In example number 3, the underlined deictic expressions 'I', 'his', 'he' and 'You' are the Person Deixis. The Person Deixis 'I' represents the Narrator himself and 'his' and 'he' represents the old man. However, the Person Deixis 'You' represents the silent

Sr. No.	Person Deixis	Example
1	'I' and 'you'	**NARRATOR:** "IT'STRUE!YES, **I** HAVE BEEN ILL, very ill. But why do **you** say that **I** have lost control of my mind, why do **you** say that **I** am mad" (Poe 64)?
2	'my', 'I', 'him', 'me' and 'his'	**NARRATOR:** "It is impossible to say how the idea first entered **my** head. There was no reason for what **I** did. **I** did not hate the old man; **I** even loved **him**. **He** had never hurt **me**. **I** did not want **his** money" (Poe 64).
3	'I', 'his', 'he' and 'You'	**NARRATOR:** "The old man was lying there not dreaming that **I** was at **his** door. Suddenly **he** moved in **his** bed. **You** may think **I** became afraid"(Poe 65).
4	'They', 'I' and 'me'	**NARRATOR:** "No! **They** heard! **I** was certain of it. **They** knew! Now it was **they** who were playing a game with **me**" (Poe 67).
5	'I', 'you' and 'my'	**NARRATOR:** "Have **I** not told **you** that **my** hearing had become unusually strong? Now **I** could hear a quick, low, soft sound, like the sound of a clock heard through a wall" (Poe 66).

listener or the reader to whom the Narrator is narrating his story.

In example number 4, the underlined deictic expressions 'They', 'I' and 'me' are the person deixis. The person deixis 'They' from the utterance represents the neighbors and policemen who are listening to the Narrator whereas 'I' and 'me' stand for the Narrator himself.

In example number 5, the underlined deictic expressions 'I', 'you' and 'my' are the person deixis. The person deixis 'I' and 'my' stand for the Narrator whereas 'you' refers to the readers.

Thus, person deixis enables us to understand the specific speaker and listener involved in the conversation that contributes to constructing the situational as well as contextual meaning of the linguistic exchange.

3.2 Place Deixis

The expressions that represent or indicate the location of the conversational participants or the object being discussed in the conversation are termed as place deixis. The demonstrative articles (this, that, these, and those) and locative adverbs (here and there) are called place deixis as these deictic expressions represent the place or location of objects as well as people in linguistic interaction. The place deixis used in the linguistic interaction enables us to understand the place or location of objects as well as people, which contributes to investigating the meaning of the situation. Consider table 2.

Table 2: Examples of Place Deixis

Sr. No.	Place Deixis	Example
6	'there'	**NARRATOR: "**The old man was lying **there** not dreaming that I was at his door" (Poe 65).
7	'there'	**NARRATOR: "**Suddenly the old man sat straight up in bed and cried, "Who's **there**??!" ……. I knew that he knew that I was **there**. He did not see me **there**. He could not hear me **there**. He felt me **there**. Now he knew that Death was standing **there"** (Poe 65).
8	'from under' and 'upon'	**NARRATOR: "**Slowly, little by little, I lifted the cloth, until a small, small light escaped **from under** it to fall **upon** — to fall **upon** that vulture eye (Poe 65)!
9	'through' and 'into'	**NARRATOR:** "I took them **through** the whole house, telling them to search it all, to search well. I led them finally **into** the old man's bed room" (Poe 67).
10	'upon' and 'over'	**NARRATOR: "**The old man gave a loud cry of fear as I fell **upon** him and held the bedcovers tightly **over** his head. Still his heart was beating; but I smiled as I felt that success was near" (Poe 66).

In example number 6, the underlined deictic expression 'there' from utterance is the place deixis. The place deixis 'there' from utterance represents the place where the old man was sleeping. The Place Deixis 'there' also indicates the home of the old man where the Narrator has come and observed.

In example 7, the underlined deictic expression 'there' is an obvious example of place deixis. The place deixis 'there' refers to the door where the Narrator is trying to open it. 'There' also indicates the home of the old man that the Narrator has come and tried to open.

The underlined deictic expressions 'from under' and 'upon' in example 8 are instances of place deictic expressions. The place deixis 'from under' and 'upon' represents the place where the small light falls upon. Moreover, the prepositions

'from under' and 'upon' also indicate the eyes of the old man where the Narrator was focusing the light.

In example 9, the underlined deictic expressions 'through' and 'into' indicate place deixis. The place deixis 'through' and 'into' are also termed as prepositions of place that denote the place where the action takes place. Here, in the above utterance, this place deixis represents the setting where the action takes place.

In example number 10 the underlined deictic expressions 'upon' and 'over' are also termed as prepositions of place that signify the location where the action takes place. Here, in the above utterance, this place deixis uttered by the Narrator denoting places where the action occurs.

Thus, the place deixis indicates the places where the action is performed. This facilitates to construct the contextual meaning of the utterances in the linguistic exchange.

3.3 Time Deixis

The expressions that represent time elements are called time deixis. Present, past, and future time representing words and phrases (now, then, recently, yesterday, next week, last year, before, after, etc.) used in linguistic interaction are called time deixis. These time dietetic articles signify the relation between time and action, they are illustrated in the following table.

Table 3: Examples of Time Deixis

Sr. No.	Time Deixis	Example
11	'During all of that week', 'Every night about twelve o'clock and 'when'	**NARRATOR: "During all of that week** I was as friendly to the old man as I could be, and warm, and loving. **Every night about twelve o'clock** I slowly opened his door. And **when** the door was opened wide enough, I put my hand in, and then my head" (Poe 65).
12	'every morning', 'Every night' and 'twelve'	**NARRATOR: "And every morning** I went to his room, and with a warm, friendly voice I asked him how he had slept. He could not guess that **every night**, just at **twelve**, I looked in at him as he slept" (Poe 65).
13	'whole hour'	**NARRATOR:** "Suddenly the old man sat straight up in bed and cried, "Who's there??!" I stood quite still. For a **whole hour** I did not move"(Poe 65).
14	'still', 'near', 'many minutes' and 'at last'	**NARRATOR: "Still** his heart was beating; but I smiled as I felt that success was **near**. For **many minutes** that heart continued to beat; but **at last,** the beating stopped" (Poe 66).

15	'when' and 'finally'	**NARRATOR: "<u>When</u>** the old man looked at me with his vulture eye a cold feeling went up and down my back; even my blood became cold. And so, I **finally** decided I had to kill the old man and close that eye forever" (Poe 64-65)!

In example number 11, the underlined deictic expressions 'During all of that week', 'Every night about twelve o'clock, and 'when' from utterance are occurrences of time deixis. The time deixis 'During all of that week', 'Every night about twelve o'clock, and 'when' indicate time when the Narrator tries to open the door of the old man's home.

In example 12, the underlined deictic expressions 'every morning', 'Every night' and 'twelve' are time deixis. They refer to the time when the Narrator observes as well as tries to open the door of the old man's home.

In example 13, the underlined deictic expression 'whole hour' indicates time deixis when the Narrator tries to open the door of the old man's home when the old man asks who is there? That time Narrator stands quite still for a whole hour.

The underlined deictic expressions 'still', 'near', 'many minutes', and 'at last' in example 14 above show time deixis. The Time Deixis 'still', 'near', 'many minutes' and 'at last'

In example 15, the underlined deictic expressions 'when' and 'finally'' denote the time of the action narrated by the Narrator that helps to understand the context of the literary exchange.

Thus, the time deixis implies the time of the action that is an essential element of the context of the conversation to construct the meaning pragmatically.

3.4 Social Deixis

The expressions of social reality as well as social identity or status of the participants (Mr., Miss., Mrs., Dr. Prof. General, President, etc.) used in the conversation are called social deixis. The usage of honorific or insulting or intimate speech levels are also aspects of Social Deixis. Social identity or status as well as a social reality are represented by these deictic expressions. Levinson (1983:63) defines social deixis as:

> "those aspects of language structure that are anchored to the social identities of participants in the speech event, or to relations between them, or to relations between them and other referents" .

The expressions that represent the social identity, as well as the status of the conversational participants, are termed social deixis which can be demonstrated in the table below.

Table 4: Examples of Social Deixis

Sr. No.	Social Deixis	Example
16	'mad'	**NARRATOR: "**But why do you say the I have lost control of my mind, why do you say that I am **mad**" (Poe 65)?
17	'the old man'	**NARRATOR: "**There was no reason for what I did. I did not hate **the old man**" (Poe 65).
18	'policemen'	**NARRATOR:** "I asked the **policemen** to come in. The cry, I said, was my own, in a dream" (Poe 67).
19	'vulture'	**NARRATOR:** "His eye was like the eye of a **vulture**, the eye of one of those terrible birds that watch and wait while an animal dies, and then fall upon the dead body and pull it to pieces to eat it" (Poe 64).
20	'neighbours', 'the old man' and 'police'	**NARRATOR:** "One of the **neighbours** had heard **the old man**'s cry and had called the **police**" (Poe 67).

In example 16, the underlined deictic expression 'mad' represents the social identity of the Narrator as people call him mad meaning the person who has lost his control of mind.

In example 17, the underlined deictic expression 'the old man' single out a social deixis instance. It represents the social identity of the old man who is the eldest citizen. The deictic expression 'the old man' also exemplifies the person who could not able to perform his daily activities as a young person.

The underlined deictic expression 'policemen' in example 18 refers to an identity of one of the professions, which can be utilized as an occurrence of social status, hence a social deixis example is singled out.

In example 19, the underlined deictic expression 'vulture' implies a social deictic meaning. Using the word 'vulture', the Narrator makes a comparison between the eyes of the old man and the terrible eyes of the bird named vulture. This comparison denotes that the eyes of the old are as terrible as the vulture.

In example 20, the underlined deictic expressions 'neighbours' in the excerpted example 19, 'the old man' and 'police illustrate examples of social deixis. 'Neighbours' denotes the people who live near to the home of the old man, 'the old man' denotes the aged man and 'police' denotes one of the professions. So these expressions enable us to know the social status and social identity of the conversational participants involved in the linguistic exchange that helps to construct the contextual meaning of the utterances in pragmatics.

3.5 Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis is defined as the usage of discourse (words, phrases, and sentences) that are mentioned in the preceding discourse. There are various expressions in English that present the relation to the prior discourse termed as discourse deixis.

The deictic expressions such as: so, therefore, whereas, anyway, until, yet, still, moreover, actually, in the view of, in my opinion, etc. are called discourse deixis as these expressions depict the relation to the previous discourse within the same conversation, making an anaphoric reference where a word in the text refers back to other words or ideas in the text for its meaning.

Table 5: Examples of Discourse Deixis.

Sr. No.	Discourse Deixis	Example
21	'IT'S TRUE!'	**NARRATOR**: "**IT'S TRUE**! YES, I HAVE BEEN ILL, very ill. But why do you say that I have lost control of my mind, why do you say that I am mad" (Poe 64)?
22	'so'	**NARRATOR**: "**So,** I am mad, you say? You should have seen how careful I was to put the body where no one could find it" (Poe 66).
23	'suddenly'	**NARRATOR**: "**Suddenly** I knew that the sound was not in my ears, it was not just inside my head. At that moment I must have become quite white" (Poe 67).
24	'As'	**NARRATOR**: "**As** I finished this work, I heard that someone was at the door. It was now four o'clock in the morning, but still dark" (Poe 66).
25	'so' and 'but'	**NARRATOR**: "My easy, quiet manner made the policemen believe my story. **So,** they sat talking with me in a friendly way. **But** although I answered them in the same way, I soon wished that they would go" (Poe 67).

The underlined expression 'it's true!' represents an anaphoric discourse relation. It refers back to the preceding text where people have been calling a person who has lost his control of mind and has become mad.

In 22, the underlined deictic expression 'so' shows a discourse deictic instance. It illustrates the preceding discourse where people have been calling a person who has lost his control of mind and has become mad. And Narrator has narrated the whole story in which how did he kill the old man and carefully hid the dead body and finally asks the interrogative question of whether he is mad?

In example 23, the adverb 'suddenly' is anaphorically used to link with the preceding discourse where the Narrator observes some sounds as he has more powerful hearing power and he continues the discourse by using a cohesive device or deictic expression 'Suddenly'.

In example 24, the underlined deictic expression 'as' from utterance gives the meaning of the discourse deixis. The discourse deixis 'as' is a kind of coordinating conjunctions and cohesive devices that connects words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs together while maintaining the relation among the clauses. *'As'* denotes the anaphoric discourse relation in the linguistic exchange.

The connectors 'so' and 'but' are a kind of coordinating conjunctions and cohesive devices that connects words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs together while maintaining the relation among clauses. So' and 'but' in example 25 from utterance form a discourse deixis occurrence. Deixis. The Discourse Deixis 'so' denotes the previous discourse in the linguistic exchange whereas 'but' denotes the relation between two clauses. Thus, the discourse deixis devices function anaphorically and in cataphoric relation, making a sort of flashback and flashforward techniques in which the conversational participants attempt to refer to a previous discourse of the linguistic exchange or to connect the previous discourse to explore his/her opinion or ideas.

4. Conclusion

'Deixis' is one of the core notions of linguistics, particularly, of pragmatics because the deictic expression contributes to constructing and examining the contextual meaning of the utterances. Secondly, the deictic expressions are of five types: person, place, time, social, and discourse. The pronouns represent the person deixis. The demonstrative adverbs and prepositions of place represent the place deixis. The expressions that indicate time are called time deixis. Expressions of social identity and status are termed social deixis. Finally, the use of cohesive devices and preceding discourse is defined as discourse deixis. In conclusion, the concept of deixis can be successfully applied to the short story *The Tale -Tell Heart* by Edger Allen Poe and found that Edger Allen Poe has successfully utilized all five types of Deixis in his *The Tale -Tell Heart.* The hypothesis of the present research 'The deictic elements used by Edger Allen Poe in *The Tale Tell Heart* facilitates the contextual meaning of the literary text' is validated as the deictic expression used *The Tale -Tell Heart* by Edger Allen Poe helps to interpret the contextual meaning of the literary text.

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